



Fifth Program Year Action Plan

The CPMP Fifth Annual Action Plan includes the [SF 424](#) and Narrative Responses to Action Plan questions that CDBG, HOME, HOPWA, and ESG grantees must respond to each year in order to be compliant with the Consolidated Planning Regulations. The Executive Summary narratives are optional.

Narrative Responses

GENERAL

Executive Summary

The Executive Summary is required. Include the objectives and outcomes identified in the plan and an evaluation of past performance.

Program Year 5 Action Plan Executive Summary:

The City of Conway is in year six of its Consolidated Planning Process that established CDBG funding priorities.

Each of the applications for funding submitted in 2010 met the five major areas of the Consolidated Plan. Allocations were based on a budget of \$400,000, because that is the number used in planning for 2009. Congress has since passed a larger budget for 2010. The city anticipates having to grant larger awards than have been budgeted without the need for any substantial amendments to this Action Plan.

A primary focus of the city remains the revitalization of the Pine Street Neighborhood. This historically African-American community in the heart of the city continues to decline despite growth all around it. The city is buying several lots in the neighborhood on which to build some homes utilizing HOME funds. CDBG funds were set aside in 2008 and 2009 for land acquisition. We had several land deals fall through, but believe we are about to acquire 7-11 lots early in 2010.

The focus in 2010 will shift from land acquisition and clearance to public facilities improvements. As this is one of the oldest neighborhoods in the city, the water and sewer lines predate the creation of our city utility (in the 1920s). The water lines are inadequate to support growth and the sewer lines do not service every lot within the neighborhood. The entire facilities project is estimated to cost \$2.1 million. The city will seek other funding sources to supplement for this project.

Another priority of the city that will take shape in 2010 is a major drainage project to prevent flooding of our downtown. The area borders the Pine Street Neighborhood, and upon completion, will provide park space to this neighborhood. The city is applying for EPA Brownfields grants to acquire and clean up an existing scrap metal yard. The property will then be converted to a retention pond to collect heavy rains

and prevent downtown flooding. Part of the City's 2010 funding will cover any charges incurred in the process of obtaining the EPA grant. Should the EPA grant not be awarded to the City, future CDBG allocations will almost definitely be applied to this project.

The city has authorized a current employee, a city planner, to work on the two city projects, Pine Street Neighborhood Revitalization and the Downtown Drainage Project.

Another new project for 2010 will be a new building for Bethlehem House, the local homeless shelter. This is anticipated to take several years. The 2010 allocation will go toward professional service fees (architect, contractor) and site preparation.

Other projects include the continued funding of housing rehabilitation through a subgrantee, CAPCA. The City of Conway is fortunate to have CAPCA to oversee the housing rehab needs of its citizens. The agency received a large weatherization grant through ARRA, and those funds have benefitted our citizens in addition to the CDBG funds.

The public services portion of the 2010 grant was designated to funding for the homeless and transportation for the elderly, those with disabilities, victims of domestic violence and children from low to moderate income homes. Several agencies receive funds for transportation annually through CDBG.

General Questions

1. Describe the geographic areas of the jurisdiction (including areas of low income families and/or racial/minority concentration) in which assistance will be directed during the next year. Where appropriate, the jurisdiction should estimate the percentage of funds the jurisdiction plans to dedicate to target areas.
2. Describe the basis for allocating investments geographically within the jurisdiction (or within the EMSA for HOPWA) (91.215(a)(1)) during the next year and the rationale for assigning the priorities.
3. Describe actions that will take place during the next year to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs.
4. Identify the federal, state, and local resources expected to be made available to address the needs identified in the plan. Federal resources should include Section 8 funds made available to the jurisdiction, Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, and competitive McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act funds expected to be available to address priority needs and specific objectives identified in the strategic plan.

Program Year 5 Action Plan General Questions response:

The low to moderate income areas of the city are concentrated around the downtown area. Transportation services provided by the Faulkner County Council on Aging, Faulkner County Council on Developmental Disabilities (Supported Work), the Faulkner County Boys and Girls Club and the Women's Shelter are also concentrated in this area. These agencies provide transportation services all over the city, but the

bulk of their clients reside and/or work in the low to moderate census tracts of the city. These services allow low to moderate income children to attend an after school recreational and tutoring program, senior citizens to keep doctor's appointments, developmentally disabled adults, homeless people and abused women to get to work, court and other necessary appointments.

Bethlehem House is the homeless shelter located in a low to moderate income tract but it also serves the entire City.

Federal resources include the use of Section 8 through the Conway Housing Authority along with other Federal dollars allocated to the Housing Authority to provide affordable housing to those that are extremely low income such as people with disabilities and senior citizens; Bethlehem House receives funds from the McKinney-Vento Homeless Grant along with Emergency Shelter Funds administered through the State. The Women's Shelter also receives Emergency Shelter Funds through the State. The Senior Citizens receive funding from the State's Council on Aging along with federal transportation dollars. FCCDD receives transportation and other funds through the State for the training and transportation of people with disabilities.

Managing the Process

1. Identify the lead agency, entity, and agencies responsible for administering programs covered by the consolidated plan.
2. Identify the significant aspects of the process by which the plan was developed, and the agencies, groups, organizations, and others who participated in the process.
3. Describe actions that will take place during the next year to enhance coordination between public and private housing, health, and social service agencies.

Program Year 5 Action Plan Managing the Process response:

The lead agency will be the City of Conway who manages and supervises the subrecipients that actually provide the programs and projects covered in the consolidated plan. The City of Conway requires that all subrecipients sign an agreement that puts the agency into a contractual arrangement with the City. The agencies must follow all the guidelines in the agreement. The City does all of the necessary monitoring of the agencies. The City of Conway also manages all the necessary monetary transactions involving the subrecipients, IDIS and the finance department of the City of Conway.

The agencies involved this year are the following:

1. Faulkner County Senior Citizens
2. Faulkner County Council on Developmental Disabilities
3. Faulkner County Boys and Girls Club
4. Women's Shelter of Central Arkansas
5. Bethlehem House Transitional Homeless Shelter
6. Community Action Program for Central Arkansas (CAPCA)
7. Pine Street Revitalization Project (administered and managed by the City of Conway CDBG staff)

8. Downtown Drainage Project (administered and managed by the City of Conway CDBG staff)

The City of Conway opens up the application process to local non-profit and for-profit agencies each year. The agencies are required to attend a training session each year that educates them on what CDBG funds are, how they must be allocated and describes the focus of the Consolidated Plan. Applicants also learn what types of projects will be funded and an approximate amount of funding available to services and projects.

We had two public hearings prior to the application deadline. The Community Development Director receives applications and assembles the CDBG Advisory Board. The Board reviews the applications and meets with the agencies in order to ask questions about the projects. The Advisory Board makes recommendations to the City Council on what they believe needs to be funded for the year in order to benefit the citizens of Conway. When the CDBG Advisory Board's recommendations are presented to the City Council, the Council may offer suggestions regarding specific programs or projects and approve the projects for the upcoming year.

This year the Advisory Board did not want to make a recommendation concerning funding of projects. Habitat for Humanity applied for two projects: land acquisition and external rehab. The City has agreed to donate lots to Habitat and to purchase lots from Habitat as part of the Pine Street Revitalization. In addition, the public facilities improvements proposed for this year serve to benefit other property owned and being considered by Habitat. The Board had a difficult time deciding if or how to fund both of these projects. They then decided to disband without a recommendation on any project funding. Because of this, the city held two additional public hearings, one broadcast on local cable prior to the city council's passage of the funding recommendations.

The city has authorized a current employee, a city planner, to work on the two city projects, Pine Street Neighborhood Revitalization and the Downtown Drainage Project. The addition of this aide will help the Director focus on meeting the federal requirements of the grant.

In addition to this staff person, the City will utilize the city's utility company, the planning department, Habitat for Humanity, the Pine Street Area Community Development Corporation and other agencies as needed in order to develop and complete the Pine Street Neighborhood Revitalization and the Downtown Drainage Project. Both of these projects are multi-year projects.

The City of Conway has brought together all the agencies that provide housing to low to moderate income citizens (which includes the Conway Housing Authority) in order to motivate and lead the initiative to provide more affordable housing for the residents of the City of Conway. The Community Development Department is also involved with the Toad Suck Continuum of Care which receives funding for several agencies through the McKinney-Vento Grant.

The City of Conway CDBG Director is a member of the Faulkner County Human Service Coalition which is a coalition of all the service providers, United Way, local churches and interfaith providers, city and county officials, state organizations and others who work on solving the issues of the low to moderate income people of

Conway. Further, the CDBG Director serves on the board of the United Way of Central Arkansas.

Citizen Participation

1. Provide a summary of the citizen participation process.
2. Provide a summary of citizen comments or views on the plan.
3. Provide a summary of efforts made to broaden public participation in the development of the consolidated plan, including outreach to minorities and non-English speaking persons, as well as persons with disabilities.
4. Provide a written explanation of comments not accepted and the reasons why these comments were not accepted.

*Please note that Citizen Comments and Responses may be included as additional files within the CPMP Tool.

Program Year 5 Action Plan Citizen Participation response:

Prior to submission of its housing and community development plan to HUD, the jurisdiction has:

1. Met the citizen participation requirements of §91.105
2. Prepared its housing and community development plan and annual use of funds in accordance with §91.105 and made its housing and community development plan submission available to the public.

This year the City of Conway held two public hearings prior to the application deadline for CDBG funding and two hearings on the department's recommendations. The first three hearings were held at City Hall which is centrally located in the low to moderate income census tracks, is easily recognizable and is handicap accessible. The fourth hearing was held at the District Court building in front of city council. This final meeting was televised on the local cable channel. At each meeting a Hispanic interpreter was available for those who did not speak English. All the meetings were held in handicapped accessible buildings.

The hearing in front of the City Council gave the agencies a chance to let the Council and the public know more about their mission and their 2010 project. Plus, they got the chance to hear the other agencies' requests.

When any comments regarding the complete Action Plan are received by the Community Development Director, they will be passed onto HUD in the form of a letter or an amendment to the 2010 Action Plan.

Institutional Structure

1. Describe actions that will take place during the next year to develop institutional structure.

Program Year 5 Action Plan Institutional Structure response:

The Community Development Department of the City of Conway will implement housing and community development plans offered by the Consolidated Plan. The Community Development Director is responsible for the administration of the CDBG program and will be responsible for the writing of the HOME funds grants for the Pine Street Revitalization Project. The City plans to hire a consultant to write the initial grants for the Downtown Drainage Project.

It is an exciting time in the Community Development Department of the City of Conway. With the aid of a current city planner, two city projects will take off this year, the Pine Street Neighborhood Revitalization and the Downtown Drainage Project.

This is the year for the City of Conway to write a new 5-Year Consolidated Plan. Other CDBG Entitlement cities in Arkansas are considering banding together to contract out the process of writing the plans and writing a Fair Housing Impediments Analysis.

The City of Conway involves the Conway Housing Authority along with other groups such as the Toad Suck Continuum of Care and the Faulkner County Human Services Coalition, the Ministerial Alliance, other churches that provide services to low to moderate income people themselves and all the agencies that serve them whether or not they are funded by CDBG. We also include the Conway Economic Development Corporation and the Chamber of Commerce by getting input and information from their staff and members in order to make sure that the entire City is working together to meet the same goals.

The City of Conway has benefitted economically from previous CDBG projects. Two buildings downtown (the Halter Building and EM Jeans) were renovated and constructed using CDBG funds. The revitalization of downtown has been directly cited as reasons for the Hewlett-Packard Company and the regional headquarters of Southwestern Energy locating in Conway. It is also believed that this downtown revitalization has been key for both population and economic growth during the past few troubled years.

Goal: Identify and address gaps in the institutional structure for the implementation of the housing and community development plan.

Strategies:

- Work with non-profit organizations to address community needs and provide support to federal and non-federal funding initiatives.
- Work with private industry to address important issues that hamper housing and community development efforts.
- Create and implement Pine Street Neighborhood Revitalization Plan in order to provide more affordable housing.
- Apply to ADFA for HOME funds to achieve the Pine Street Neighborhood Revitalization Plan.
- Create and write a new Five Year Consolidated Plan.

Monitoring

1. Describe actions that will take place during the next year to monitor its housing and community development projects and ensure long-term compliance with program requirements and comprehensive planning requirements.

Program Year 5 Action Plan Monitoring response:

The City of Conway, through the Community Development Director and the Finance Department, will administer the disbursement and use of funds in all of these projects. Reports will be furnished to HUD as required. All financial transactions will be administered through the Finance Department. Reports will be furnished to HUD as required. Records of improvements completed and improvements yet to be completed will be kept and will be available to HUD and the public upon request.

The Community Development Director is ultimately responsible for monitoring the program. The City of Conway divisions are working together to ensure long-term compliance with federal, state, and local regulations along with statutes relating to monitoring. The City of Conway's independent hired auditors will help to ensure compliance of regulations regarding financial and other areas of the program.

The Community Development Director will monitor all public facilities provided by subrecipients that have received CDBG funds in the past and assure the property or program is still being utilized and maintained correctly.

Subrecipients provide housing programs, certain public facilities, economic development, and public services activities. All subrecipients are required to sign written contractual agreements for all activities or programs that are funded by CDBG. Monitoring areas will include program performance, financial performance and regulatory compliance. Subrecipient agreements will require documentation of activities and results. In addition, agreements will require an estimated project schedule and a project completion date. Agreements will outline procedures to be followed in the case a non-compliance situation will occur.

The Little Rock HUD Office monitored the City of Conway's Community Development Department in 2008. They suggested some changes with record keeping, financial record improvements and environmental improvements. The CDBG Director at that time and the finance department created written financial procedures to ensure that timeliness and other issues were addressed in the monitoring plan for the subrecipients and the program. The finance department and CDBG Director work more closely together than before the monitoring.

Lead-based Paint

1. Describe the actions that will take place during the next year to evaluate and reduce the number of housing units containing lead-based paint hazards in order to increase the inventory of lead-safe housing available to extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income families, and how the plan for the reduction of lead-based hazards is related to the extent of lead poisoning and hazards.

Program Year 5 Action Plan Lead-based Paint response:

Goal: Increase the inventory of lead safe housing units

Strategies:

1. Continue to meet lead-based paint abatement standards in housing rehabilitation programs
2. Expand the stock of lead safe housing units through housing initiatives

HOUSING

Specific Housing Objectives

*Please also refer to the Housing Needs Table in the Needs.xls workbook.

1. Describe the priorities and specific objectives the jurisdiction hopes to achieve during the next year.
2. Describe how Federal, State, and local public and private sector resources that are reasonably expected to be available will be used to address identified needs for the period covered by this Action Plan.

Program Year 5 Action Plan Specific Objectives response:

The Pine Street Neighborhood Revitalization began last year and continues in 2010. In 2009, we worked to acquire property. Being new to the process of acquisition, the environmental review wasn't completed in 2009. In 2010 we will acquire the land, improve the water lines around the property, and seek HOME funds for construction. Our plan is to build five homes on the initial parcel which is seven city lots with the additional land going to Habitat for Humanity or being sold to private developers for market rate homes. We are also looking to buy an additional four lots for several more homes.

This is the first time that the City of Conway has undertaken a housing project, and the first time that we have applied for HOME funds. The CDBG Director attended training on HOME funds through ADFA in the fall of 2009. Habitat for Humanity, a yet unidentified homeowner counseling agency, and Conway Corp (the city's utility company) will be partners in this program. The City of Conway's planning department will also play a large role. A city planner led a massive rezoning effort in this neighborhood in 2009 that involved several public meetings and a zoning new to Conway.

The Pine Street Revitalization is meant to maintain the historic feel of the neighborhood while mimicking a New Urbanism-style neighborhood going in across the street to the north at Hendrix College. The houses will be set close to the street with sidewalks in order to encourage a walkable neighborhood where families meet in public areas rather than staying in their own backyards.

The City will continue to work with Habitat for Humanity, CAPCA and other housing providers and developers in order to continue to create a plan to increase the number of affordable housing units in the City of Conway. Habitat for Humanity by promising lots within Pine Street. CAPCA receives CDBG money to carry out

rehabilitation of existing homes. The City will continue to encourage the use of tax credits along with working with all housing providers including the Conway Housing Authority.

Needs of Public Housing

1. Describe the manner in which the plan of the jurisdiction will help address the needs of public housing and activities it will undertake during the next year to encourage public housing residents to become more involved in management and participate in homeownership.
2. If the public housing agency is designated as "troubled" by HUD or otherwise is performing poorly, the jurisdiction shall describe the manner in which it will provide financial or other assistance in improving its operations to remove such designation during the next year.

Program Year 5 Action Plan Public Housing Strategy response:

The City of Conway has always worked together with the Conway Housing Authority. We are exploring all options available for affordable housing including helping the Conway Housing Authority continue its Self Sufficiency program which is the Section 8 Homeownership Program. We work with the agency that provides the First Time Home Buyer Classes to the people of Conway and especially the PHA residents that are interested in purchasing a home for the first time.

The City and PHA are working on a plan to use HOME funds, PHA funds and possible other funds to create an affordable housing project that would increase the number of affordable units.

Barriers to Affordable Housing

1. Describe the actions that will take place during the next year to remove barriers to affordable housing.

Program Year 5 Action Plan Barriers to Affordable Housing response:

The slowing economy led to a slump in the housing market overall. One of the biggest barriers to affordable housing is the lack of developers interested in building affordable homes. A goal of the Pine Street Revitalization is to incentivize private developers to build market-rate homes alongside low to moderate income homes in the hopes of diversifying and strengthening the neighborhood. We hope that our first application for HOME funds opens the doors for more opportunities throughout the city by different groups.

Goal: Address barriers to affordable housing development and availability in order to reduce the cost burden on low and moderate-income residents.

Strategies:

1. Fully implement the strategy to return adjudicated vacant lots to affordable housing production by providing grants of housing lots to non-profits for development organizations such as Habitat for Humanity through the Pine Street Revitalization project.
2. Develop a plan to increase the number of affordable housing units with the Conway Housing Authority and every agency involved with housing and the need for it in Conway.
3. Work with other departments in the City of Conway to remove barriers such as impact fees and permit fees for new affordable housing developments.

HOME/ American Dream Down payment Initiative (ADDI)

1. Describe other forms of investment not described in § 92.205(b).
2. If the participating jurisdiction (PJ) will use HOME or ADDI funds for homebuyers, it must state the guidelines for resale or recapture, as required in § 92.254 of the HOME rule.
3. If the PJ will use HOME funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily housing that is that is being rehabilitated with HOME funds, it must state its refinancing guidelines required under § 92.206(b). The guidelines shall describe the conditions under which the PJ will refinance existing debt. At a minimum these guidelines must:
 - a. Demonstrate that rehabilitation is the primary eligible activity and ensure that this requirement is met by establishing a minimum level of rehabilitation per unit or a required ratio between rehabilitation and refinancing.
 - b. Require a review of management practices to demonstrate that disinvestments in the property has not occurred; that the long-term needs of the project can be met; and that the feasibility of serving the targeted population over an extended affordability period can be demonstrated.
 - c. State whether the new investment is being made to maintain current affordable units, create additional affordable units, or both.
 - d. Specify the required period of affordability, whether it is the minimum 15 years or longer.
 - e. Specify whether the investment of HOME funds may be jurisdiction-wide or limited to a specific geographic area, such as a neighborhood identified in a neighborhood revitalization strategy under 24 CFR 91.215(e)(2) or a Federally designated Empowerment Zone or Enterprise Community.
 - f. State that HOME funds cannot be used to refinance multifamily loans made or insured by any federal program, including CDBG.
4. If the PJ is going to receive American Dream Down payment Initiative (ADDI) funds, please complete the following narratives:
 - a. Describe the planned use of the ADDI funds.

- b. Describe the PJ's plan for conducting targeted outreach to residents and tenants of public housing and manufactured housing and to other families assisted by public housing agencies, for the purposes of ensuring that the ADDI funds are used to provide down payment assistance for such residents, tenants, and families.
- c. Describe the actions to be taken to ensure the suitability of families receiving ADDI funds to undertake and maintain homeownership, such as provision of housing counseling to homebuyers.

Program Year 5 Action Plan HOME/ADDI response:

The City of Conway does not participate in this program because the City is NOT a participating jurisdiction (PJ). However, through the Pine Street Revitalization project, we plan to apply for HOME funds through Arkansas Development Finance Authority (ADFA) for the first time.

HOMELESS

Specific Homeless Prevention Elements

*Please also refer to the Homeless Needs Table in the Needs.xls workbook.

1. Sources of Funds—Identify the private and public resources that the jurisdiction expects to receive during the next year to address homeless needs and to prevent homelessness. These include the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act programs, other special federal, state and local and private funds targeted to homeless individuals and families with children, especially the chronically homeless, the HUD formula programs, and any publicly-owned land or property. Please describe, briefly, the jurisdiction's plan for the investment and use of funds directed toward homelessness.
2. Homelessness—In a narrative, describe how the action plan will address the specific objectives of the Strategic Plan and, ultimately, the priority needs identified. Please also identify potential obstacles to completing these action steps.
3. Chronic homelessness—The jurisdiction must describe the specific planned action steps it will take over the next year aimed at eliminating chronic homelessness by 2012. Again, please identify barriers to achieving this.
4. Homelessness Prevention—The jurisdiction must describe its planned action steps over the next year to address the individual and families with children at imminent risk of becoming homeless.
5. Discharge Coordination Policy—Explain planned activities to implement a cohesive, community-wide Discharge Coordination Policy, and how, in the coming year, the community will move toward such a policy.

Program Year 5 Action Plan Special Needs response:

The City of Conway is fortunate to have the only transitional homeless shelter in the immediate area (Bethlehem House); along with an emergency battered women's shelter (Women's Shelter of Central Arkansas); and a transitional/permanent shelter

for girls who have been taken from their homes due to abuse or neglect (HAVEN). These three agencies have a total of 43 beds.

Bethlehem House has a capacity of 15 (families and singles) and typically houses several children. The Women's Shelter is normally full and that often includes children. HAVAEN only houses children. One of the needs of the City of Conway is additional emergency and transitional homeless shelter beds. Bethlehem House is beginning the building of a new shelter. CDBG has granted \$50,000 to this project for 2010 and plans to recommend funds for the next two years toward this shelter. Bethlehem House also created an apartment for a chronically homeless person in 2009 and plans to open another in 2010.

The Toad Suck Continuum of Care coalition is diligently working with various governmental and non-profit agencies, business organizations and service providers throughout the local regions in planned developments and implementation to effect the change at state and local levels. The Continuum of Care is developing protocols to increase access by homeless persons to mainstream resources. The key aspect of the chronic homeless strategy lies within the renewal funding of our existing programs. The Continuum of Care is successfully making efforts to fill the gaps in needs among the homeless and chronically homeless by maintaining available resources and continuously striving to expand the services.

Identification of the chronic homeless citizens continues to challenge the Toad Suck Continuum of Care. Increasing awareness of chronic homelessness in rural areas is difficult and therefore foremost in the Toad Suck Continuum of Care's chronic homelessness strategy. The plan will be accomplished by the following strategic goals:

1. Increase awareness in the Toad Suck Continuum of Care's geographic area of the prevention, outreach, supportive services and housing necessary in addressing chronic homelessness and the benefits to the communities by doing so.
2. Provide support and training for the Toad Suck Continuum of Care's community and faith-based initiatives in prevention, outreach, supportive services, and housing necessary in addressing chronic homelessness and the benefits to the communities by doing so.
3. Develop strong connections with ACCN and other statewide coalitions addressing chronic homelessness, thereby optimizing collaborative opportunities and accessing current state of the art resources.

Discharge Management Policy

Discharge from publicly funded facilities is most often coordinated with providers in the region via local law enforcement, emergency workers, and/or disaster volunteers. Several agencies have a pronounced presence throughout the six county regions and as a result, providers and governmental agencies work closely together to provide housing and services to the homeless at discharge. Case management efforts allow homeless persons to access services, including food banks, financial assistance agencies, social security, Medicaid and others. Local laws also allow for close collaboration with provider agencies. For instance, Arkansas law states that law enforcement personnel are responsible for transporting mentally ill individuals who are a threat to themselves or others to a safe environment.

Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG)

(States only) Describe the process for awarding grants to State recipients, and a description of how the allocation will be made available to units of local government.

Program Year 5 Action Plan ESG response:

The City of Conway does not receive ESG grants, but agencies within the Toad Suck Continuum of Care that do are Bethlehem House, HAVEN, Faulkner County Women's Shelter, and CAPCA. Further, the Toad Suck Continuum of Care received additional ESG funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The local Salvation Army is administering these funds for the coalition.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Development

*Please also refer to the Community Development Table in the Needs.xls workbook.

1. Identify the jurisdiction's priority non-housing community development needs eligible for assistance by CDBG eligibility category specified in the Community Development Needs Table (formerly Table 2B), public facilities, public improvements, public services and economic development.
2. Identify specific long-term and short-term community development objectives (including economic development activities that create jobs), developed in accordance with the statutory goals described in section 24 CFR 91.1 and the primary objective of the CDBG program to provide decent housing and a suitable living environment and expand economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons.

*Note: Each specific objective developed to address a priority need, must be identified by number and contain proposed accomplishments, the time period (i.e., one, two, three, or more years), and annual program year numeric goals the jurisdiction hopes to achieve in quantitative terms, or in other measurable terms as identified and defined by the jurisdiction.

Program Year 5 Action Plan Community Development response:

The City of Conway has two multi-year public improvement projects slated to begin in 2010. Coinciding with our housing project in the Pine Street Neighborhood, CDBG funds will be used to improve water lines for four blocks on the street of our first house. Further, the CDBG Department is looking for other resources to improve water, sewer and possibly electricity and other needs throughout the Pine Street Neighborhood.

The City of Conway utilized CDBG funds to improve Downtown Drainage in 2006 and 2008. In 2010 we will use CDBG funds to start the process of our most aggressive project ever. The current Downtown Drainage project will focus on the purchase and clean up of property long used as a scrap metal yard. Not only will the project eliminate blight, improve the environment and help property values around it, the property sits on an underground stream that floods Downtown Conway. By turning

this property into a retention pond for rainwater, we hope to lessen flooding in Downtown Conway. Also, the cleaned property will be turned into park space for neighborhood use as well as citywide use.

The City of Conway also is involved in providing transportation service grant monies for several agencies and for health-related issues.

Antipoverty Strategy

1. Describe the actions that will take place during the next year to reduce the number of poverty level families.

Program Year 5 Action Plan Antipoverty Strategy response:

Conway, along with the rest of the nation, has experienced a downturned economy. The Fayetteville Shale Play has brought a lot of gas and oil industry jobs to the area. Southwestern Energy is currently constructing their regional headquarters in Conway in the neighborhood just north of the Pine Street Revitalization project. The opening of a major shopping center within the last six years with several national retail stores helped provide lower waged jobs. Finally, Hewlett Packard opened a facility in Conway in January 2010. The HP jobs pay an average of \$40,000 per year.

These gains have help increase the number of jobs and fill in the gaps lost in the past several years through downsizing of large industry such as Virco, the closing of Carrier, Acxiom moving their headquarters to Little Rock and in 2009 a drastic downsizing of International Corp., the makers of school buses.

1. Work with Conway Development Corporation and the Downtown Partnership in order to promote the City of Conway through support of their economic development strategies. The CDBG Director will work with them when needed in the recruitment of businesses but not allocate CDBG money toward that goal.

NON-HOMELESS SPECIAL NEEDS HOUSING

Non-homeless Special Needs (91.220 (c) and (e))

*Please also refer to the Non-homeless Special Needs Table in the Needs.xls workbook.

1. Describe the priorities and specific objectives the jurisdiction hopes to achieve for the period covered by the Action Plan.
2. Describe how Federal, State, and local public and private sector resources that are reasonably expected to be available will be used to address identified needs for the period covered by this Action Plan.

Program Year 5 Action Plan Specific Objectives response:

The strategies to address non-homeless needs are to have evaluated the upcoming needs related to the non-homeless special needs populations.

Goal: Meet the priority needs of the non-homeless special needs population

Strategies:

1. Provide funding for organizations that deliver services (especially transportation) to victims of domestic violence
2. Provide funding for the local homeless shelter, Bethlehem House, in order for them to have 24-hour a day staff to better serve those in need.
3. Providing funding for organizations that deliver assistance to persons with disabilities including job training and transportation
4. Provide funding for organizations that deliver transportation assistance to senior citizens.

Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS

*Please also refer to the HOPWA Table in the Needs.xls workbook.

1. Provide a Brief description of the organization, the area of service, the name of the program contacts, and a broad overview of the range/ type of housing activities to be done during the next year.
2. Report on the actions taken during the year that addressed the special needs of persons who are not homeless but require supportive housing, and assistance for persons who are homeless.
3. Evaluate the progress in meeting its specific objective of providing affordable housing, including a comparison of actual outputs and outcomes to proposed goals and progress made on the other planned actions indicated in the strategic and action plans. The evaluation can address any related program adjustments or future plans.
4. Report on annual HOPWA output goals for the number of households assisted during the year in: (1) short-term rent, mortgage and utility payments to avoid homelessness; (2) rental assistance programs; and (3) in housing facilities, such as community residences and SRO dwellings, where funds are used to develop and/or operate these facilities. Include any assessment of client outcomes for achieving housing stability, reduced risks of homelessness and improved access to care.
5. Report on the use of committed leveraging from other public and private resources that helped to address needs identified in the plan.
6. Provide an analysis of the extent to which HOPWA funds were distributed among different categories of housing needs consistent with the geographic distribution plans identified in its approved Consolidated Plan.
7. Describe any barriers (including non-regulatory) encountered, actions in response to barriers, and recommendations for program improvement.
8. Please describe the expected trends facing the community in meeting the needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS and provide additional information regarding the administration of services to people with HIV/AIDS.
9. Please note any evaluations, studies or other assessments that will be conducted on the local HOPWA program during the next year.

Program Year 5 Action Plan HOPWA response:

The available information indicates that there are very few individuals in Conway with AIDS and in need of housing. Consequently, there exists limited need for projects involving housing opportunities for persons with AIDS in the City of Conway. The largest city in the metropolitan area, Little Rock, is the one eligible to utilize Housing Opportunities for Persons With Aids (HOPWA) funds. Therefore, no projects involving HOPWA funds are proposed in Conway at this time.

Specific HOPWA Objectives

Describe how Federal, State, and local public and private sector resources that are reasonably expected to be available will be used to address identified needs for the period covered by the Action Plan.

Program Year 5 Specific HOPWA Objectives response:

Work with the State of Arkansas Homeless Coalition which deals with HOPWA issues by supporting them in all their efforts.

Other Narrative

Include any Action Plan information that was not covered by a narrative in any other section.

This year's administration money is higher than in previous years in order to provide training to the new CDBG Director and the staff overseeing projects. Also, the CDBG department hopes to outsource the writing of the five-year consolidated plan and the Fair Housing Analysis of Impediments this year. Conway is joining a consortium of other Arkansas CDBG entitlement cities to bid this outsourcing in the hopes of achieving a high-quality product at a reduced price.